



## ***Commander, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines Family Readiness Letter***

Marines, Sailors, Families and Friends of the 25<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment;

I am very grateful to be given the privilege of Command of this Regiment at a very dynamic and challenging time for our Warfighters. We have just seen the return of 3/25 after a very successful and ground breaking deployment to Afghanistan. They were the first Marine Reserve Infantry Battalion to deploy to Afghanistan and they acquitted themselves magnificently while maintaining a superb family and community support posture in the States. We are now all pulling together to see a successful conclusion to their mobilization period while we simultaneously make preparations for 1/25 to deploy for an expanded mission in Afghanistan. That deployment will include Marines from one company supporting the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (Training the Afghan Army and Police), as well as the remainder of the Battalion providing the security forces and a tactical reserve for Regional Command South West. As with all deployments in the recent past we have had volunteers from across the Regiment cross attached from sister battalions to help flesh out the numbers for our deploying battalion and this type of team work cannot go unrecognized. I want to say thanks to all the Marines and Sailors who have answered the call and stepped forward for these missions. In addition to this we have a couple of requirements where we are providing both individual and small unit augments for both Afghanistan and Africa Command. In the summer and through the coming year we will continue to see a greater demand for rounding out forces for other Combatant Commanders that will require both volunteers and unit mobilization. All of this is in addition to the HQs, 2/25, and 3/25 annual two week training. Collectively this points to one resounding theme under the Unit Family Readiness and Personnel Readiness Program – we have to maintain our personal and family readiness because our Operational Readiness requirements are constant.

Our Unit Family and Personal Readiness Program has an excellent foundation and I want to thank all the volunteers in the battalions and HQs who have supported the Yellow Ribbon Programs, the families who have attentively attended these important informational events, and the Staff members who have helped to organize them. If you as a parent, spouse or significant other of an active or reserve Marine have not taken the time to check out the resources and information available with Military One Source , [www.marineparents.com/usmc/](http://www.marineparents.com/usmc/) or [www.milspouse.com](http://www.milspouse.com), I am asking you to do so. Whether it is medical, dental, counseling, or access to the right resource to solve that ‘what now’ pop up problem that we all get dealt from time to time – it’s my belief that we have got the resources out there to help address it but only if you or your Marine take the time to leverage this information. If you have no problems and your Marine just returned home try booking a tranquil vacation for the coming Summer months through Military One Source(<http://www.afvclub.com/>) or for those of you with children have you heard of and applied for Operation Purple Camp? Both provide great opportunities I can attest to.

We have made great strides in the Department of Defense, with our Civic and Local Governments, to provide resources and opportunities for the military family. I trust that as a member of our Team you will fully utilize our Marine Corps Family Readiness Program, provide me feedback through your Family Readiness Officers and that you’ll take the time to participate in our team building events as we work together to ensure we are all ready to answer the call to Service. I look forward to meeting you in the coming months as the opportunity presents itself. Semper Fidelis.

M. A. LESAVAGE  
COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING OFFICER, 25TH MARINE REGIMENT